**Decline in tiger population**

1140. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has been urged in writing by around 140 tiger experts, non-government organization and prominent citizens about the critical need to act immediately to save the national animals;

(b) whether Government is aware about the decline in tiger population in the country; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Government has been receiving suggestions from people belonging to various walks of life including tiger experts, citizens and Non-Governmental Organisations for tiger conservation.

(b) and (c) As per the findings of the recent all India Estimation of tiger using refined methodology, the total country- level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The recent assessment of tiger population is based on determining spatial occupancy of tigers throughout potential tiger forests and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework. This assessment is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks owing to several shortcomings in the later. The new findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of such States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts.

**Polluted rivers**

1141. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of rivers in our country have got polluted;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether any steps have been taken/ funds allocated for cleaning of polluted rivers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any task force have been constituted to study and to protect the polluted rivers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (f) As per an earlier survey, polluted stretches on rivers